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August 31, 2020

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn Boyd Chief Clerk/Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: South Carolina Energy Freedom Act (H.3659) Proceeding Initiated Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-40-20(C): Generic Docket to (1) Investigate and Determine the Costs and Benefits of the Current Net Energy Metering Program and (2) Establish a Methodology for Calculating the Value of the Energy Produced by Customer-Generators Docket No. 2019-182-E

Dear Ms. Boyd:

By Order No. 2020-570 dated August 26, 2020, issued in the above-referenced docket, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") requested that parties submit suggested procedural schedules for the solar choice metering tariff proceeding. The Commission instructed the parties to "[t]ake into account the March 3, 2021 deadline for the Commission to issue its final order. Specifically, proposed orders from the parties should be submitted to the Commission no later than February 3, 2021, which is 4 weeks before the final order deadline." The purpose of this letter is to provide the Commission with a proposed procedural schedule to address the solar choice metering tariff of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. ("DESC" or "Company").

As an initial matter, the March 3, 2021 deadline referenced in Order No. 2020-570 is not a deadline imposed upon the Commission by law.<sup>1</sup> Instead, it is the Company's understanding that the Duke Energy companies have requested that the Commission issue an order regarding its solar choice tariffs by March 3, 2021. It is not necessary for the Commission to issue an order by March 3, 2021, regarding

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The only statutory requirement placed upon the Commission and the utilities regarding a solar choice metering tariff is that the tariff must in effect no later than June 1, 2021.

DESC's solar choice metering tariff and for that reason the Company proposes the following schedule for the DESC solar choice metering tariff docket.

- 1. DESC must prefile with the Commission 1 copy of the direct testimony and exhibits of the witnesses it intends to present and serve the testimony and exhibits of the witnesses on all Parties of Record on or before **December 15, 2020**. (must be post-marked on or before this date).
- 2. All Other Parties of Record and the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") must prefile with the Commission 1 copy of direct testimony and exhibits of the witnesses they intend to present and serve the testimony and exhibits of the witnesses on all Parties of Record on or before January 15, 2021. (must be post-marked on or before this date).
- 3. DESC filing Rebuttal Testimony must prefile with the Commission 1 copy of the testimony and exhibits of the witnesses it intends to present and serve the testimony and exhibits of the witnesses on all Parties of Record on or before **February 5, 2021**. (Rebuttal testimony and exhibits must be in the offices of the Commission and in the hands of the parties on this date).
- 4. All Other Parties of Record and the ORS filing Surrebuttal Testimony must prefile with the Commission 1 copy of the testimony and exhibits of the witnesses they intend to present and serve the testimony and exhibits of the witnesses on all Parties of Record on or before **February 12, 2021**. (Surrebuttal testimony and exhibits must be in the offices of the Commission and in the hands of the parties on this date).

In addition to the prefiling deadline above, DESC recommends a hearing date of February 23, 2021, with proposed orders being due on March 9, 2021.

In order to implement its solar choice metering tariff by June 1, 2021, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission issues its order in this matter no later than April 9, 2021.

Lastly, I have conferred with counsel for Vote Solar, the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association ("NCSEA"), the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League ("CCL"), the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy ("SACE"), the Solar Energy Industry Association ("SEIA"), and ORS regarding this matter, and I am authorized to inform the Commission that Vote Solar supports DESC's proposed

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procedural schedule and that NCSEA, CCL, SACE, SEIA, and ORS do not object to DESC's proposed procedural schedule.

Thank you for providing the Company with the opportunity to submit its proposed procedural schedule for its solar choice metering tariff.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

K. Chad Burgess

## KCB/kms

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(all via electronic mail and U.S. First-Class Mail)